

Monday, February 27, 2023

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, and members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Rabbi Andi Fliegel and I am writing in support of the Fair Share Bill HB 6633.

I am a resident of West Hartford and a rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, CT. My congregation is a proud member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).

Fair Share planning and zoning will ensure that suburbs in Connecticut take on the responsibility of creating more affordable housing for residents who are desperately in need of it. Presently in CT a family has to work 91 hours at minimum wage in order to afford the average two-bedroom apartment.

Deuteronomy 15:8 states, "You shall open your hand wide to [the poor person] and shall surely lend him/her sufficient for his/her need, in which s/he lacks." The Talmud, a central Jewish text, understands this verse to be referring to the poor person's need for a home with a bed and a table. In other words, every person is entitled to habitable and adequate housing to keep them safe and we as a community are obligated to ensure that this is actualized not only for ourselves but all of our community members. At present, the dearth of affordable housing units, particularly in the suburbs, impedes our capacity to realize this teaching.

Fair Share planning and zoning is a hopeful pathway forward to rectify this injustice. While we have a moral imperative to implement Fair Share, it is also a sensible and fiscally responsible direction for each municipality to adopt. It is estimated that over 10 years Fair Share will ensure 240,000 units of sorely needed market rate and affordable units, 63,000 jobs, \$9.8 Billion in state and local tax revenue, and \$47 Billion in income for Connecticut residents. Out of a moral imperative and a fiduciary responsibility to the state, I urge you to support HB 6633.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Andi Fliegel  
West Hartford, CT